The Original Town

of

Bloomington, Illinois,

And Its First Proprietors.

COMPILED AND PRINTED
BY MILO CUSTER,
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS.

1923.

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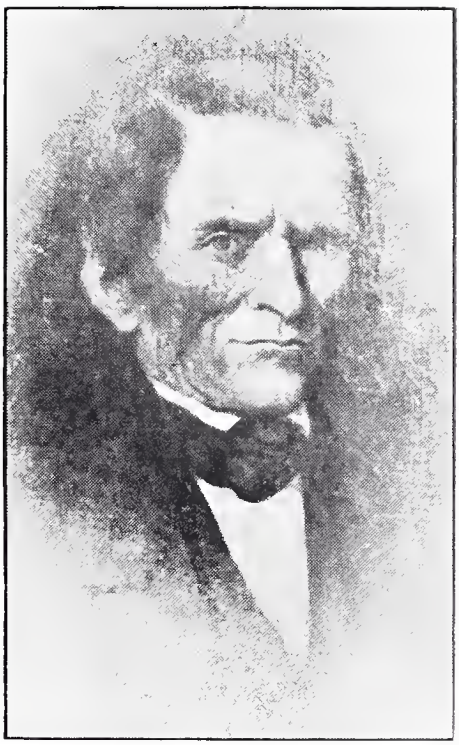


HON. JAMES ALLIN.
"Founder of Bloomington, Illinois."
Born 1788, Died 1869.

(From Portrait by Elisha Hunt, About 1850; Central Illinois Historical Society Collection.)

The Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois, And Its First Proprietors.

By Milo Custer.

James Allin entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section Four, Township 23 North, Range 2 East of the Third Principal Meridian, (eighty acres.) Oct. 27, 1829. The approximate boundaries of this tract are, using present street names etc. by way of designation, as follows, viz. The northeast corner being located at the southeast corner of the Second Presbyterian Church; the northwest corner about 100 feet south of the south line of Monroe Street and about 60 feet west of the west line of Roosevelt; the southwest corner about 100 feet east of the intersection of Lee Street and Oakland Avenue; and the southeast corner at the intersection of East Street and Oakland. The eighty acre tract adjoining on the north was entered by Robert H. Peebles, Aug. 11, 1830. This tract along with considerable other local real estate, was conveyed by a deed dated April 20, 1832, from Robert H. Peebles and wife, Augusta, of Fayette County, Ill. to James Allin. It may be that Mr. Allin and Dr. Peebles had an unrecorded contract antedating this deed, or it may have been a case of "after acquired title" as subsequent events would tend to indicate.

An act of the Seventh General Assembly in force Dec. 25, 1830, providing for the organization of McLean County, stipulated that the county seat should be located on land to be donated for the purpose, not less than twenty acres to be accepted. Provision was also made in this act that a sufficient quantity of this land should be reserved as a site for the public buildings, the remainder to be subdivided into lots, the lots to be sold and the proceeds used for county purposes. By the same legislative enactment it was also provided that the name of the new county seat should be Bloomington.

The first County Commissioners of the new county, Jonathan Cheney, Jesse Havens, and Timothy B. Hoblit, held their first meeting May 16, 1831. At this session they received the following report from Lemuel Lee and Isaac C. Pugh, special Commissioners appointed to locate the new county seat, viz. "We, the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to Locate a County Seat in the County of McLean on the second Monday of February or within five days thereafter, owing to the severity of the weather and depth of snow* it was impossible for us to proceed to locate the same at the time specified by law, but so soon thereafter as practicable we proceeded to examine the situation of the County and have located the same on the Land of James Allen on the North end of the Blooming grove, for which we have his obligation for a donation of twenty-two acres and a half of land." On the same date, Dr. Isaac Baker, our first County Clerk and first County Surveyor, was appointed to advertise the sale of lots which was to be held on the following Fourth of July, and at the next meeting held June 7, 1831, he was also appointed to make a survey of the donated land according to an approved plat thereof, also to make a copy of this plat and have the same recorded. This plat and the County Commissioners' certificate accompanying it occupy Page 1 in Book A of our Deed Records.

*This was the famous "winter of the deep snow."

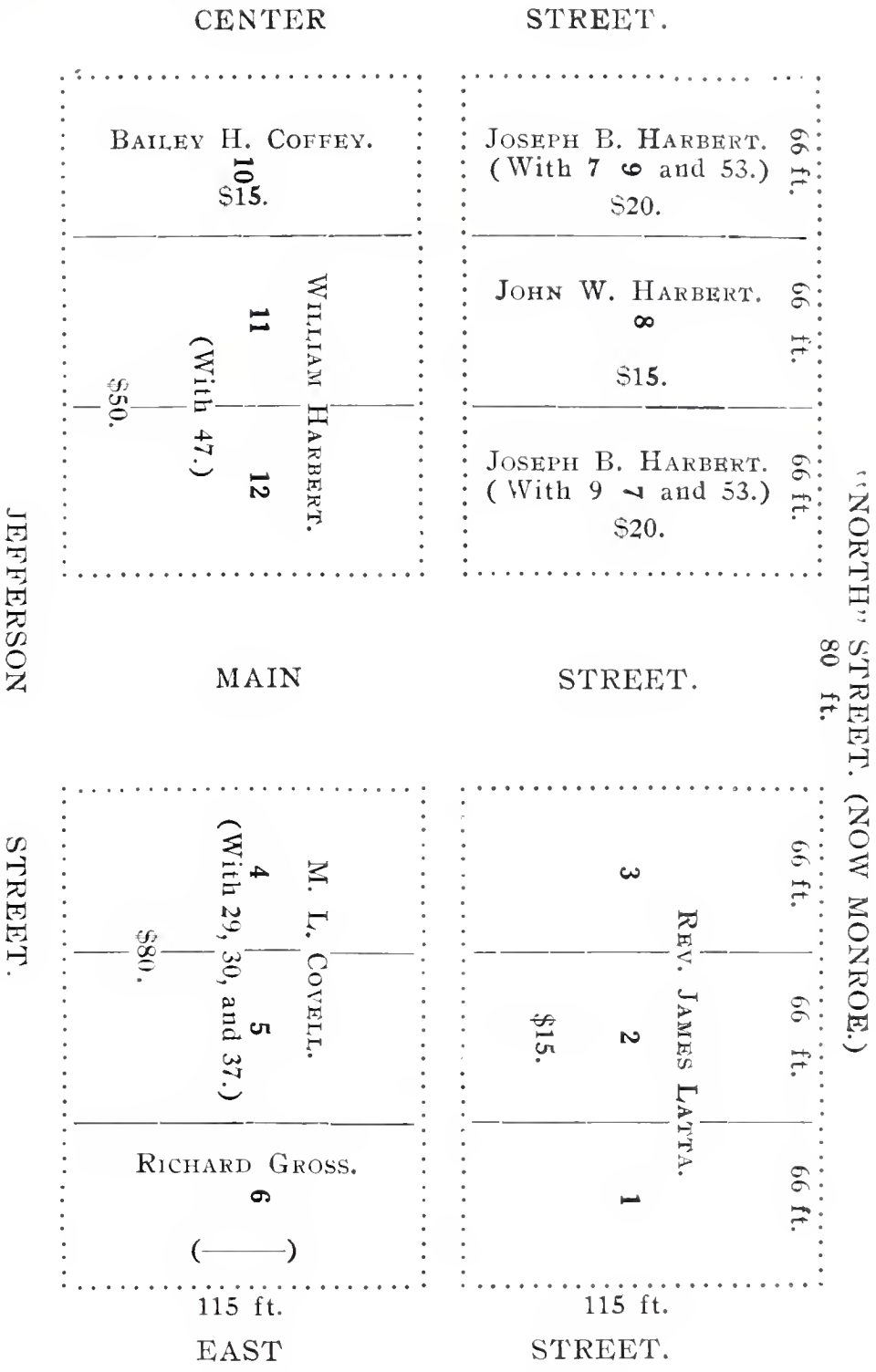
July 2, 1831, James Allin and wife Catharine, conveyed by warranty deed to the County Commissioners of McLean County, and their successors in office, a tract of twenty-five acres bounded by the present Monroe, Roosevelt, Front, and East Streets. The greater part of this tract lay within Mr. Allin's entry of 1829, but a strip wide enough to make one row of lots along the north side, was taken off his purchase from Dr. Peebles. This was subdivided into twelve blocks of six lots each, the lots fronting north and south, with an alley running east and west through each block. The streets were named, the lots were numbered consecutively from 1 to 72, commencing at the northeast corner and ending at the southwest. The alleys were also numbered, but no designation of any kind was attached to the blocks.

Lot 38 the middle lot in the north half, and Lots 40, 41 and 42, comprising the south half of the present court house square were reserved for public purposes, the others were sold at auction as previously arranged, and thus was Bloomington, Illinois, officially born on the fifty-fifth anniversary of American Independence, July 4, 1831. The following minute of the sale appears in the records of the County Commissioners, viz. "July 4, 1831. The Court proceeded according to previous notice given and made sale of all the lots in the Town of Bloomington except those noted on the Plat of said Town as a public square and Lot No. 38, which by the Court is reserved. The Amount for which the lots were sold and to whom, recorded in Book Z, reference thereto being had." No such book or record is known to exist. It was with a view to supplying this deficiency that the author made much painstaking research among the early local deed records in an effort to learn the purchasers names and the prices they paid for the lots.

Fifty years later, July 4, 1881, a celebration of the first half century of its existence was held in Bloomington. At this time Amasa C. Washburn, who had attended and bought a lot there, wrote a letter to Judge John E. McClun giving a detailed account of our first lot sale. This letter was published in the Daily Pantagraph supplement, July 4, 1881. This letter is as follows;

"Carbondale, Jackson Co. Ill. June 15," [1881.]

"J. E. McClun, Esq. --- Dear Brother; Your letter of inquiry is before me. I was present at the sale of lots, July 4th, 1831. I am sorry I cannot answer your questions with more certainty. I have no record of events that occurred on that day, therefore have to rely upon my memory. I take up your questions in the order you present them. The sale commencd about 12 o'clock. Samuel [sic] B. Hoblit, being one of the commissioners, acted as auctioneer. Dr. Isaac Baker acted as clerk and made out the papers to the purchasers. The auctioneer went with the crowd (not a very large one) from lot to lot, commencing if my memory is correct, at the corner of East and Grove streets, thence west to Main, thence north and east around that square. I do not remember exactly what these lots sold for, but think they ranged from six to fifteen or eighteen dollars."



Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,

(Lots 1 to 12, Inclusive.)

Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.

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"I know I bought the middle lot lying between the National Bank and the old M. E. church for ten dollars and fifty cents. ($10.50.) After this block was disposed of there was a call for lots fronting the public square. They went to the corner of Washington, west of Main street. That lot was knocked off at twenty-five dollars. [sic] Going west the middle lot was sold for eighteen, and the corner on Center for twenty-two dollars; crossing over to the corner where the People's Bank now stands, was sold for eighteen dollars. They continued west to West street, selling the lots for low prices, but I cannot now specify them; thence they returned to the corner of Main and Front streets, the old McLean County Bank corner. Up to this time the sale had been a very tame affair, but a very spirited contest sprang up over this lot until the figures reached (as I remember them,) were $69, some say $59. Then we moved west on Front, and prices soon dropped to $5. I think after crossing Center street, and before we came to Madison, the sale was closed, because no one would take lots in that locality at $5, the limited price.

The ground at that time was wet, as you may remember. If my recollection is correct, no lots were sold that day north of Washington street. It was thought to be too far in the prairie. As to who attended the sale and bought lots I cannot say, as I was a resident of only two weeks, and knew but few of the people. My impression is that the old settlers about the grove were generally present, and that those who bought lots did so more from a curiosity to own a town lot than from any expectation of occupying them. Mr. Allin, as you are aware, owning the ground south of Front street, used his influence to get actual settlers to locate on his ground. This accounts I think, in part at least, for the dullness of the public sale. As to the weather, I think the fore part of the day was pleasant. In the afternoon clouds arose, and perhaps a little rain about the time the sale closed. Mr. David Simmons, who, I suppose still lives in Bloomington, was, I presume, present at the sale; he certainly was in the grove at that time.

Had I expected at that time to live to see Bloomington what she now is, I should have treasured up items with great carefulness, but I was so stupid I did not expect to see even a respectable village grow up there in the wilderness, and it was nothing more at that time. Why, the only way I could get from Fort Clark, (Peoria,) was to foot it, not having even a track to follow, a part of the way. No roads, no people, what was to make a town, unless it was composed of wolves and rattlesnakes, I could not imagine. There was more of the latter, if counted as citizens, to form quite a village to start with. But fifty years have wrought wonders, such changes as few have witnessed in a lifetime." * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Very Truly Yours,
"A C. Washburn."

P. S. - "I remark that the price paid for lots seemed small at this day, but considering the fact that at that time, an eighty acre tract joining these lots on the north, was then Congress land and entered some six or eight months afterwards at $1.25 per acre, five dollars was not a small price for a small lot." "A C. W."

ADDITIONAL EXTRACT
From The
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECORDS;

[Book A, Page 30.] * * * * * * * * * Feb. 10th, 1833.

"The Court proceeded to examine and ascertain the Names of Persons entitled to Deeds for Lots in the Town of Bloomington as purchasers of Lots, and then adjourned till tomorrow morning at the office of David Wheeler, Esq."

Feb. 11th; "The Court met pursuant to adjournment and executed Deeds to the following Named Persons including those of the last Dec. term."

"To James Latta, Martin Scott, A. Gridley, Nathan Low, Wm. R. Robertson, John Maxwell, Ebenezer Rhodes, Cheney Thomas, Solomon Dodge, Caleb Kimler, Jesse Frankeberger, Jesse Havens, Frederick Trimmer, M. L. Covell, John W. Dawson, David Wheeler, Alvin Barnett, Jonathan Cheney, Joseph B. Harbert, Eli Frankeberger, Hezekiah M. Harbert, Richard Gross, William Harbert, Samuel Durley, Orman Robertson, Bailey Kimler, Bailey H. Coffey, Lewis Sowards, John W. Harbert, Isaac Baker, and Absolom Funk."

No other record has been found of the deeds delivered to Seth Baker (2), Eli Frankeberger, Absolom Funk, Richard Gross, Hezekiah M. Harbert, Jesse Havens, Orman Robertson, and Lewis Sowards, therefore the prices they paid are not known. No record has been found of deeds from Eli Frankeberger, Hezekiah M. Harbert, and Lewis Sowards, for any of these lots, but their purchases doubtless included Lots 49 and 54.

ORIGINAL PURCHASERS
AS SHOWN BY DEED RECORDS;

(Also Prices, Dates of Deeds, References, Etc.)

ALLIN, JAMES; Lots 61, 66, 68, and 69; $50. Sept. 5, 1832. (A, 199)

BAKER, ISAAC; Lots 70, 71, and 72; $20. Feb. 12, 1833. (B, 287.)

BAKER, SETH; [No. 2] Sold Lot 58, Mar. 5, 1833, to James M. Killip. $40. (B, 46.)

BARNETT, ALVIN; Lot 46; $20. Feb. 11, 1833. (D, 617.)

*BUNN, LEWIS; Sold Lot 54, Aug. 9, 1842, (with other property,) to James Miller and John E. McClun. (I, 310.)

CHENEY, JONATHAN; Lots 17, 19, 21, 24, 31, 56, and 57; $80. Feb. 11, 1833. (B, 17.)

COFFEY, BAILEY H.; Lot 10; $15. Feb. 12, 1833. (A, 175.)

COVELL, M. L.; Lots 4, 5, 29, 30, and 37; $80. Feb. 12, 1833. (B, 100.)

DAWSON, JOHN W.; Lot 43; $30. Feb. 11, 1833. (B. 11.)

DODGE, SOLOMON; Lot 64; $5. Feb. 11, 1833. (B. 96.)

DURLEY, JOHN; (With Samuel and William Durley.) Lot 55; $50. Jan. 30, 1832. (A, 30)

DURLEY, SAMUEL; Lot 45; $50. Feb. 12, 1833. (B, 51.)

DURLEY, WILLIAM; (With John and Samuel Durley.) Lot 55; $50. Jan 30, 1832. (A, 30.)

FRANKEBERGER, JESSE; Lot 44; $30. Feb. 11, 1833; (B, 14.)

FUNK, ABSOLOM; Sold Lot 51, April 15, 1848, (with other property,) to Isaac Funk. (M, 297.)

"WEST" STREET. (NOW ROOSEVELT.)

Ebenezer Rhodes, 22 $20.	Jonathan Cheney, (With 17, 19, 24, 31, 56, & 57.) 21 $80.	66 ft.
23	John Maxwell, 20 $10.	66 ft.
Jonathan (With 17, 21, 13, 24	Cheney, 56, and 57, $80.) 19	66 ft.

JEFFERSON MADISON STREET. "NORTH" STREET. (NOW MONROE.) 66 ft.

Jesse 16 (——	Havens. 15 ——)	66 ft.
Jonathan Cheney. (With 19, 21, 24, 31, 56, & 57.) 17 $80.	14 David Trimmer, $10.	66 ft.
James K. Orendorff, 18 $29.	13	66 ft.

STREET. (66 ft.)

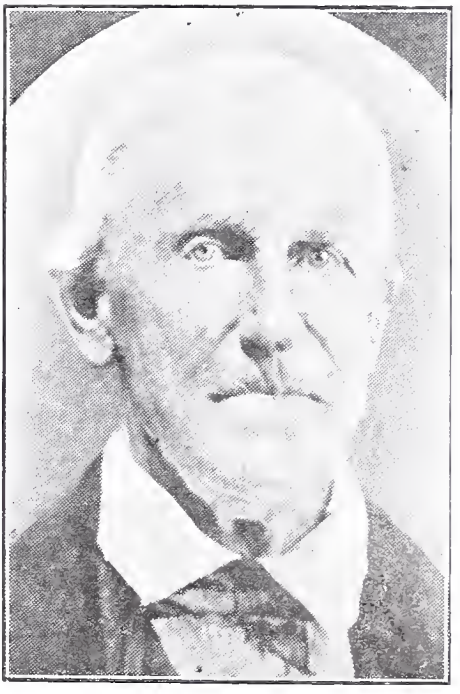
115 ft. 115 ft.

~~MAIN~~ Center STREET. 66 ft.

Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,

(Lots 13 to 24, Inclusive.)

Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.



WILLIAM ORENDORFF.

An Auctioneer At The First Lot Sale In Bloomington, Illinois, July 4, 1831.

GRIDLEY, ASAHEL; Lot 60; $52. Oct. 18, 1831, and Dec. 5, 1832. (Two deeds; A, 64, and B, 26.) also Lot 33; $50. June 3, 1833. (B, 30.)

GROSS, RICHARD; Sold Lot 6, April 14, 1833, to M. L. Covell. $10. (B, 101.)

HARBERT, [HARBORD.] JOHN W.; Lot 8; $15. Feb. 11, 1833. (A, 179.)

HARBERT, JOSEPH B.; Lots 7, 9, and 53; $20. Feb. 11, 1833. (B, 183.)

HARBERT, [HARBORD?.] WILLIAM; Lots 11, 12, and 47; $50. Feb. 11, 1833 (A, 185)

HAVENS, JESSE; Sold Lots 15 and 16, July 15, 1833, to James Mason. $25. (B, 103.)

KIMLER, BAILEY; Lots 25 and 26; $10. Feb. 11, 1833. (A, 174.)

KIMLER, CALEB; Lot 59; $22. Feb. 12, 1833. (A, 181.)

*KIMLER, JOHN; Sold Lot 49, (With other property.) Mar. 27, 1835, to Jarvis Gaylord. (C, 214.)

LATTA, JAMES; Lots 1, 2, 3, and 39; $15 for the first three and $16 for the other. Dec. 4, 1832, and Feb. 11, 1833. (two deeds.) A, 127, and B, 77.

LOW, NATHAN; Lots 36, and 62; $40. Dec. 5, 1832. (A, 132.)

MAXWELL, JOHN; Lot 20; $10. Dec. 5, 1832. (B, 25.)

ORENDORFF, JAMES K.; Lot 18; $29. Dec. 3, 1833. (B, 111.)

RHODES, EBENEZER; Lots 22, 23, and 65; $20 for the first two and $6 for the other. Dec. 5, 1832, and Feb. 12, 1833. (two deeds.) B, 21, and C, 185.

RHODES, JOHN H. S.; Lot 63; $13. May 3, 1833. (B, 95.)

ROBERTSON, ORMAN; Sold Lot 32, Dec. 12, 1832, to Asahel Gridley. $50. (B, 18.)

ROBERTSON, WILLIAM R.; Lot 35; $30. Dec. 5, 1833. (B, 19.)

SCOTT, MARTIN; Lot 67; $8; Dec. 4, 1833. (A, 197.)

THOMAS, CHENEY; Lot 34; Dec. 5, 1833. (B, 9.)

TRIMMER, DAVID; Lots 13 and 14; $10. Feb. 11, 1833. (B, 69.)

TRIMMER, FREDERICK; Lot 48; $10. Feb. 11, 1833. (B, 43.)

WASHBURN, AMASA C.; Lot 50; $10.50; July 16, 1831. (A, 34.)

WHEELER, DAVID; Lots 27 and 28; $10. Feb. 11, 1833. (B, 99.)

Those marked thus * (Lewis Bunn and John Kimler,) were probably not original proprietors, but the deeds by which they sold Lots 54, and 49, respectively, are the first recorded transfers of these two lots.

No record has been found to show whether the lots were sold for cash or on credit, neither is it known whether a second auction was held, or certain lots not sold July 4, 1831, were disposed of later at private sale. The variations in the dates of the purchasers deeds as shown above, may be an indication of either method. It will be observed that the Commissioners record that they "made sale of all the lots" July 4, 1831, conflicts with Mr. Washburn's statement that certain lots were not sold on that date.

The statement that William Orendorff was the auctioneer, July 4, 1831, (Duis, Page 160.) disagrees with another statement of Mr. Washburn.

ALLIN, HON. JAMES; Son of ISAAC and FRANCES (RANDALL) ALLIN; b. N. C. May 13, 1788, m. CATHARINE LIVINGSTON, 1817, d. Bloomington, Ill. May 5, 1869. Ch. Wm. H. Dr. Lee, John W., James, Jr., and Ann (Allin) Hoover.

BAKER, Dr. ISAAC; Son of SAMUEL, Sr. and RHODA (SILLIMAN) BAKER; b. Fairfield Co. Conn. Sept. 13, 1783, m. 1st, SUSANNAH M. DODGE, 1803, 2nd, RUTH (WHITE) GREENMAN, June 27, 1833, d. Leroy, Ill. April 28, 1872. (1st wf. d. Feb. 26, 1833.) Ch. by 1st wf. Seth, (2) Elliott H., William M., John D., Susannah M., Charles, Sidney D., Mary A. (B.) Rowan, Hiram, and Albert. Ch. by 2nd wf. Julia A. (B.) Edwards, and Laura W. (B.) Noble.

BAKER, SETH; (2) Son of Dr. ISAAC and SUSANNAH M. (DODGE) BAKER; b. Marietta, O. Aug. 16, 1805, m. 1st, MARY M. GATES, Dec. 25, 1829, 2nd, SARAH ORENDORFF, Aug. 19, 1840, d. Iowaville, Ia. Dec. 5, 1846 (1st wf. d. Nov. 19, 1839.) Ch. by 1st wf. Margaret (B.) Packard, Mary (B.) Ober, Betty (B.) Sargent, and Israel. Son by 2nd wf. Leander.

BARNETT, ALVIN; Son of MOSES and CATHARINE (ELLIS) BARNETT; b. Ky. 1806, m. REBECCA ..... d. Ark.? (Wf. b. Ky. 1807.) Ch. William, b. 1827, Moses, (2) b. 1829, Emily, b. 1833, Caroline, b. 1836, Frances, b. 1843, and Alice, b. 1847.

BUNN, LEWIS; Son of PETER BUNN; b. Walnut Creek Twp. Ross Co. O. Sept. 16, 1806, m. 1st, MARGERY HAINS, 2nd, LUCINDA BLEVINS, Jan. 26, 1847, d. Bloomington, Ill. April 14, 1886. (1st wf. d. about 1845.) Ch. by 1st wf. Benjamin H., Catharine R. (B.) Larimore, Thomas J., and Wm. H. 5 ch. by 2nd wf. names unknown to author.

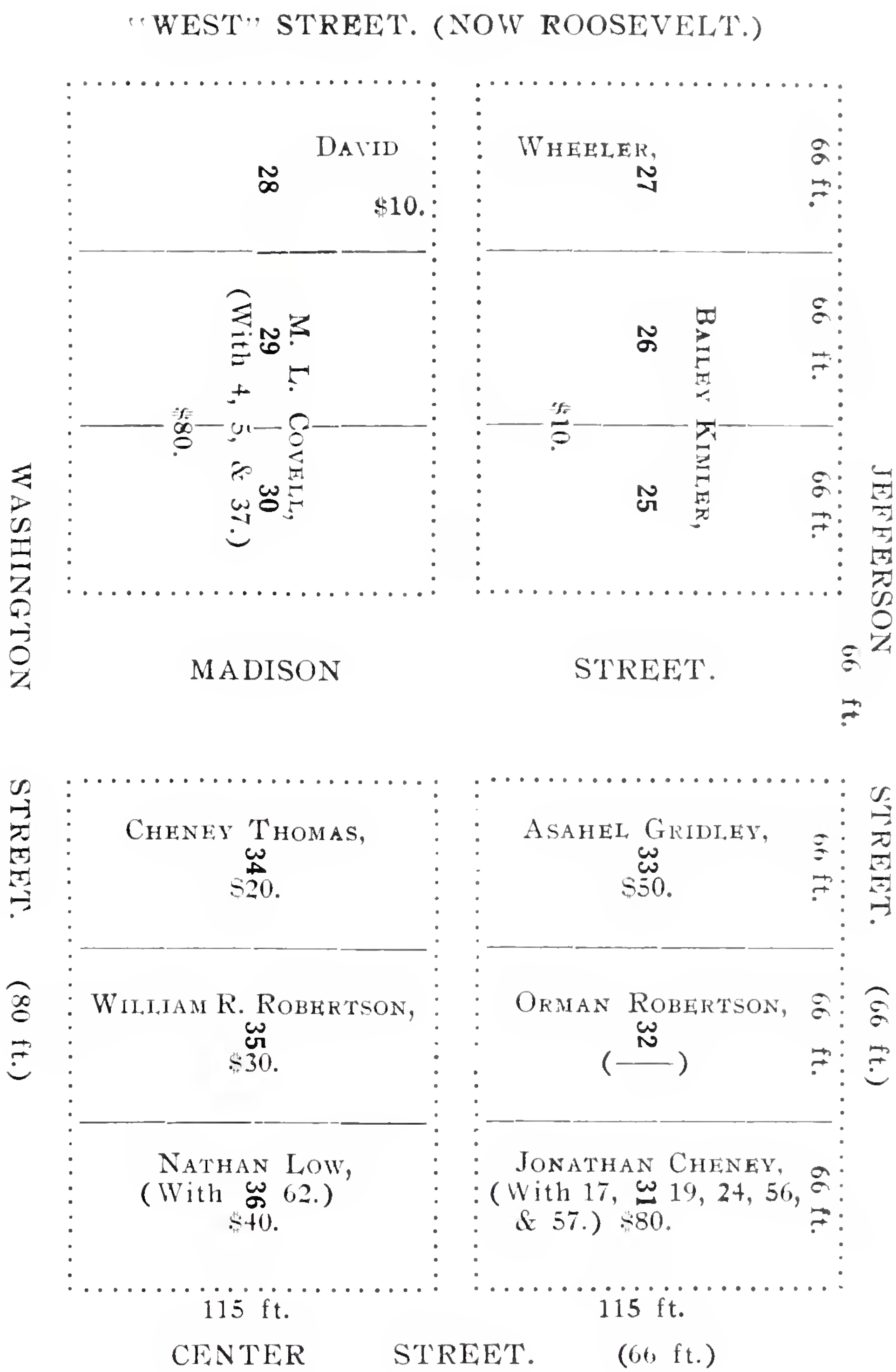
CHENEY, JONATHAN; b. Freeman's Fort, Va. Sept. 13, 1785, m. CATHARINE OWEN, Mar. 22, 1805, d. Saybrook, Ill. Mar. 21, 1862. Ch. Mary (C.) Stansbury, Thomas, Owen, Keturah, Amelia (C.) Horr, George, Wm. Hains, Catharine (C.) Prothero, Return J., and Rebecca (C.) Prothero.

COFFEY, BAILEY H.; Son of JOHN and MARY B. (HARBERT) COFFEY; b. Ky. 1811, m. 1st, NANCY COX, Dec. 27, 1832, 2nd, CATHARINE (LOW) HARBORD, d. Coffeysbrg, Mo. Aug. 23, 1873. Ch. by 1st wf. Mary F. (C.) McIntire, John W., Hiram J., Volney T., and Lucinda (C.) Vandervoort. Ch. by 2nd wf. James, Catharine (C.) Weldon, and Harvey.

COVELL, Capt. MERRITT L.; b. N. Y. (?) about 1800, m. CATHARINE S. STAPP, June 20, 1833, d. Washington, D. C. Sept. 17, 1849. Sons, Guy, and Lee D.

DAWSON, JOHN W.; Son of HENRY DAWSON; b. nr. Maysville, Ky. Mar. 9, 1792, m. ANN CHENEY, 1815, d. nr. Ft. Dodge Ia. Oct. 7, 1862. Ch. Henry, (2) John, Lucinda (D.) Luce, Mary (D.) Stine, Clarinda (D.) Miller, Lewis, Martha A. Stillman, Isaac, and Nancy J. (D.) Harrison.

DODGE, SOLOMON; Son of JOHN and SUSANNAH (MORGAN) DODGE; b. Ohio, May 31, 1798, m. ELIZABETH SPRINGER, Mar. 21, 1820, d. Littleton, Ill. Dec. 16, 1889. Ch. Lucy Ann (D.) Perry, Catharine (D.) Adams, Mary (D.) Curtis, Elizabeth (D.) Wilson, and Frank.



Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,

(Lots 25 to 36, Inclusive.)

Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.

DURLEY, JOHN; Son of HORATIO & NANCY (.....) DURLEY; b. Ky. abt. 1808, d. (unm.) Bloomington, Ill. Dec. 15, 1832.

DURLEY, SAMUEL; Son of HORATIO and NANCY (.....) DURLEY; b. Ky. 1805, m. SARAH ANN SCROGIN, April 4, 1836, d. nr. Sedalia, Mo. Feb. 16, 1879. Ch. Mary A. (D.) Dozier, Amanda E. (D.) Elgin, Leonidas, and Sarah M. (D.) May.

DURLEY, WILLIAM; Son of HORATIO and NANCY (.....) DURLEY; b. Ky. 1802, m. 1st, MILDRED MILLS, Sept. 15, 1827, 2nd, MARGARET FLETCHER, April 23, 1833, d. Bloomington, Ill. Aug. 29, 1833. Dau. by 1st. wf. Mildred M. (D.) Laughton. Dau. by 2nd wf. Adaline (D.) Rice.

FRANKEBERGER, ELI; Brother of Rev. Jesse Frankeberger; Removed to Burean Co. Ill. about 1833. No other data found.

FRANKEBERGER, Rev JESSE; b. Pa. May 16, 1791, m. 1st, RACHEL CHENEY, abt. 1814, 2nd, ROSANNAH RINEHART, abt. 1817, 3rd, ELIZA ANN SHEELEY, abt. 1827, d. Bloomington, Ill. Jan. 10, 1870. (1st wf. d. Mar. 10, 1817, 2nd wf. d. Mar. 1826.) Ch. by 1st wf. Emily (F.) Gibbs, Sarah (F.) Nichols. Ch. by 2nd wf. Jane (F.) Hendryx, Sophia (F.) Rathbun, Benjamin, David. Ch. by 3rd wf. Alfred, Joel, Lucinda (F.) Van Gundy, Mary E. (F.) McCune, Jason T., Matilda (F.) Hubbart, Jesse, Jr.

FUNK, ABSALOM; Son of ADAM and SARAH (MOORE) FUNK; b. Va. Sept. 1, 1787, m. SARAH ..... d. Chicago, Ill. Sept. 4, 1851. No ch.

GRIDLEY, ASAHEL; Son of ASAHEL, Sr. and ELIZABETH (PERCIVAL) GRIDLEY; b. Cazenovia, N. Y. April 21, 1810, m. MARY ANN ENOS, Mar 18, 1836, d. Bloomington, Ill. Jan. 25, 1881. Ch. Juliet (G.) Schoenrock, Albert W., Mary (G.) Bell, and Edward.

GROSS, RICHARD; b. abt. 1800, m 1st, ELIZABETH HARBERT, Mar. 15, 1829, 2nd, RHODA MEANS, Oct. 13, 1844. d. Mo. (1st wf. d. abt. 1843.) Ch. by 1st wf. Mary Ann (G.) Short, Bailey H., Mahala (G.) Bozarth-Wallace, Henry D., and Daniel. Ch. by 2nd wf. Alice (G.) ..... and Catharine (G.) .....

HARBERT, HEZEKIAH M.; Entered the E. ½ S. W. ¼ Sec. 17, T. 23, N. R. 2 E. Jan. 12, 1830. Several deeds were signed by Hezekiah M. Harbert and wife, Elizabeth, of McLean Co. Ill. from July 9, 1831 to June 19, 1832. No other important data found. He may have been identical with Mosby Harbert, brother of Joseph B. His entry of 1830 includes the tract on which the author was born 50 years later.

HARBERT, [HARBORD] JOHN W.; Son of WILLIAM and JANE (COFFEY) HARBORD; b. Ky.? Jan. 18, 1807, m. MARY S. ..... d. Clarence, Mo. Mar. 5, 1882. Son, M. H.

HARBERT, JOSEPH BAILEY; b. Ky. (Or Va.?) abt. 1780, m. ANN GALLOWAY, d. Bloomfield, Ia. abt. 1859. Ch. Elizabeth (H.) Gross, Hiram, John, Mary (H.) Walker, David, Mahala (H.) Hendrix, William, Nancy (H.) Glover, Hannah Ann (H.) McCarley, Margaret (H.) Dean, and Malinda J. (H.) McCarley.

HARBERT, WILLIAM; William Harbert and wife, Lucinda, of Putnam Co. Ind. sold Lots 11, 12, and 47, Original Town, Bloomington, Ill. Mar. 30, 1833. No other important data.

HAVENS, JESSE, Jr.; Son of JESSE, Sr. and CONTENT (.....) HAVENS; b. nr. Squawn Bay, N. J. June 23, 1781, m. REBECCA HINTHORN, Sept. 19, 1805, d. Delhi, Ia. Dec. 2, 1862. Elizabeth (H.) Platt, Anna (H.) Smith, Dorcas (H.) Wheeler, Margaret (H.) Trimmer, John, Hiram, Jesse D., James, Enoch S., Irod M., and William W.

KIMLER, BAILEY; Son of JOHN KIMLER, Sr.; b. Va. abt. 1792, m. LOUISA DRISKILL, Mar. 2, 1837, d. nr. Bloomington, Ill. abt. 1850. Ch. Benjamin F., Margaret A., Charles W., and Mary A.

KIMLER, CALEB; Son of JOHN KIMLER, Sr.; b. Va. abt. 1798, m ELIZABETH ORENDORFF, April 1, 1832, d. Randolph's Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Jan. 9, 1848. Ch. Lewis C., Marena J. (K.) Abel, William J., and America (K) Noggle.

KIMLER, JOHN, Jr.; Son of JOHN KIMLER, Sr.; b. Va. abt. 1790, m. MARY COX, Jan. 1, 1828, d. Bloomington, Ill. 1838. Ch. Hannah (K.) Ramsey, and Adeline P. (K.) McClun.

LATTA, Rev. JAMES; (M. E.) b. Westmoreland Co. Pa. abt. 1800, m. ELIZABETH ..... d. Goshen, Ind. 1881. Removed from McLean Co. Ill. 1833. Names of ch. not known to the author. Grandson, C. C. Latta.

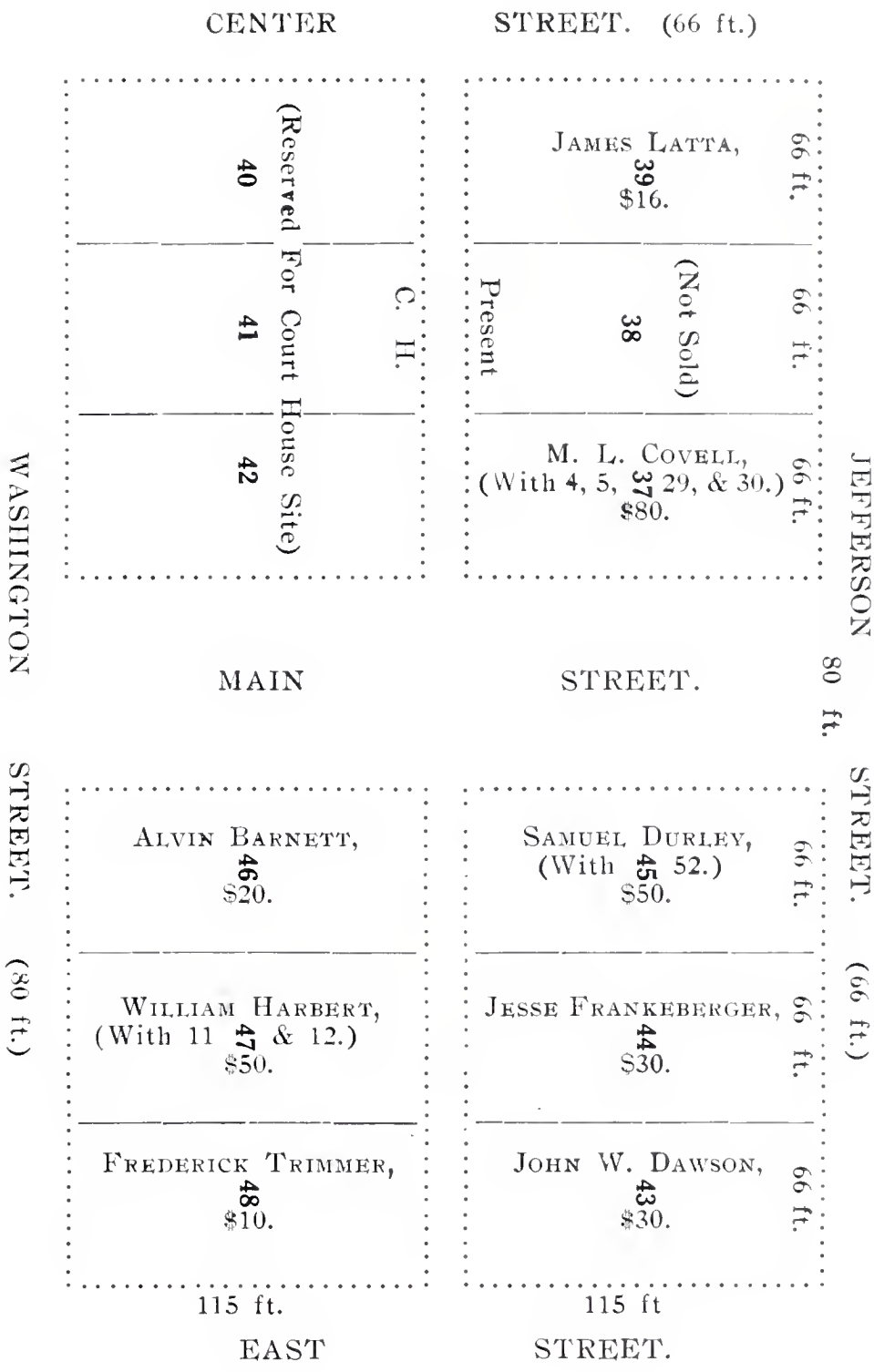
LOW, NATHAN, Jr.; Son of NATHAN, Sr. and NANCY (WRIGHT) LOW; b. Ringold's Manor, Greenbriar Co. Md. Jan. 6, 1791, m. SARAH BROOKS, Feb. 12, 1814, d. Low's Grove, McLean Co. Ill. April 17, 1844. Ch. John, Catharine (L.) Harbord-Coffey, Elizabeth (L.) Karr, Eliza (L.) Scogin, Eliza Ann (L.) Vanordstrand, and Nathan. (3)

MAXWELL, JOHN, Jr.; Son of JOHN, Sr. and JANE (BRAZELTON) MAXWELL; b. Aug. 18, 1807, m ELIZABETH SCOTT, d. nr. Waynesville, Ill. Jan. 5, 1891. Ch. Ann (M.) Veteto, John A., Lucinda (M.) Arthington, David, (2) William, (2) Caleb D., and Joseph.

ORENDORFF, JAMES K.; Oldest son of WILLIAM and SARAH (NICHOLS) ORENDORFF; b. nr. Hopkinsville, Ky. Dec. 28, 1812, m. LOVINA SAYLES, May 4, 1837, d. Blooming Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Jan. 31, 1875 Ch. William, (3) Perry, James, Mary F., and Sarah A.

RHODES, Rev. EBENEZER; b. in Holland, May 21, 1780, m. MARY (HARGIS) STARR, abt. 1799, d at Blooming Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Dec. 6, 1842. Ch. John H. S., (step-son) Samuel, (1) Rhoda (R.) Stringfield, Naomi (R.) Nigest, Jeremiah, Aaron, (1) Ebenezer, Jr., James S., and Polly (R.) Mitchell.

RHODES, JOHN H. S.; b. on George's Creek, Md. Oct. 16, 1796. m. 1st, MARY JOHNSON, abt. 1818, 2nd, MARY ANN (BRANAMAN) YAZEL, abt. 1848, d. Blooming Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Aug. 21, 1875. Ch. by 1st wf., Cynthia (R.) Turnipseed, Caroline (R.) Bellew, William J., Emily (R.) Brewster, and Aaron P. Ch. by 2nd wf. Samuel M and Cinderella (R.) Gardner. According to the late John F. Rhodes, son of Jeremiah Rhodes, this man was a son of Mary (Hargis) Starr-Rhodes, by her first husband, John Starr, and his name was John Hargis Starr. Later he assumed the family name of his step-father, Rev. Ebenezer Rhodes, and ever since was known as John H. S. Rhodes.



Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,

(Lots 37 to 48, Inclusive.)

Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.

ROBERTSON, ORMAN; b. nr. Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 23, 1805, m. MARY ANN BROWN, Feb. 17, 1824, d. White Oak Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Feb. 27, 1852. Ch. Catharine (R.) Robertson, Rachel J. (R.) Hughes, Sarilda (R.) Beeler, William R. (2) Levi P., Nita Ann (R.) Benson, Louisa (R.) Williams, and George Hamilton.

ROBERTSON, WILLIAM RUSSELL; b. Tenn. Feb. 12, 1797, m. MALINDA HINSHAW, abt. 1825, d. nr. Low's Grove, McLean Co. Ill. Mar. 23, 1843. Ch. Elizabeth (R.) Adams-Summerfield, Jasper, Larkin, Wm. Newton, Polly Ann (R.) Tucker, and Mary Jane (R.) Dayhack.

SCOTT, MARTIN; Son of JOHN SCOTT; b. Va.? abt. 1800? m. 1st, LUCINDA MAXWELL, Feb. 26, 1830, 2nd, POLLY MAXWELL, April 16, 1835, d. Davis Co. Mo. (1st wf. d. Mar. 11, 1831.) Son, John. (3)

SOWARDS, LEWIS; No essential data obtainable. Came from Ohio to the Mackinaw settlement, McLean Co. Ill. abt. 1825. Had 4 sons and 3 daus. Brother-in-law of Jacob Harness. Lewis Sowards and wf. Susannah, [Harness?] sold the N. E. ¼ N. W. ¼ Sec. 11, T 25 N. R. 3 E. July 19, 1834. Removed to a location near Columbus, Wis.

THOMAS, CHENEY; b. Va. 1806, m. SARAH OLNEY, Jan. 9, 1834. (Date and place of death nuknown to the author.) Ch. Caroline, b. 1838, Henry C., b. 1840, William C., b. 1842, John, b. 1845, Margaret Ann, b. 1847, Hannah C., b. 1850.

TRIMMER, DAVID; Son of JOHN and ELIZABETH (LANTERMAN) TRIMMER; b. Hunterdon Co. N. J. Dec. 13, 1811, m. 1st, MARGARET HAVENS, Jan. 13, 1830, 2nd, MARIA CLARK. d. June 10, 1881. Ch. by 1st wf. John A., and Havens, Ch. by 2nd wf. Charles M., and Isabel.

TRIMMER, FREDERICK; Son of JOHN and ELIZABETH (LANTERMAN) TRIMMER.) b. Hunterdon Co. N. J. Oct. 4, 1806, m. NANCY ORENDORFF, Dec. 1, 1831, d. Aug. 11, 1839. Son, William.

WASHBURN, AMASA C.; b. Putney Twp. Windham Co. Vt. May 25, 1807, m. 1st, PAULINA PARKER, Aug. 27. 1833, 2nd, ANN PACKARD, April 30, 1835, d. Carbondale, Ill. April 11, 1894. (1st wf. d. July 13, 1834.) Dau. Mary F. (W.) Hull.

WHEELER, Dr. DAVID; b Marlborough, N. H. June 17, 1774, m. 1st, CATHARINE ..... d. Waynesville, Ill. Dec. 17, 1859. Ch. Dr. Elijah, Charlotte (W.) Post, Martha (W.) Blankenship, Matilda (W.) Vaughan? and Rebecca (W.) Wright?.

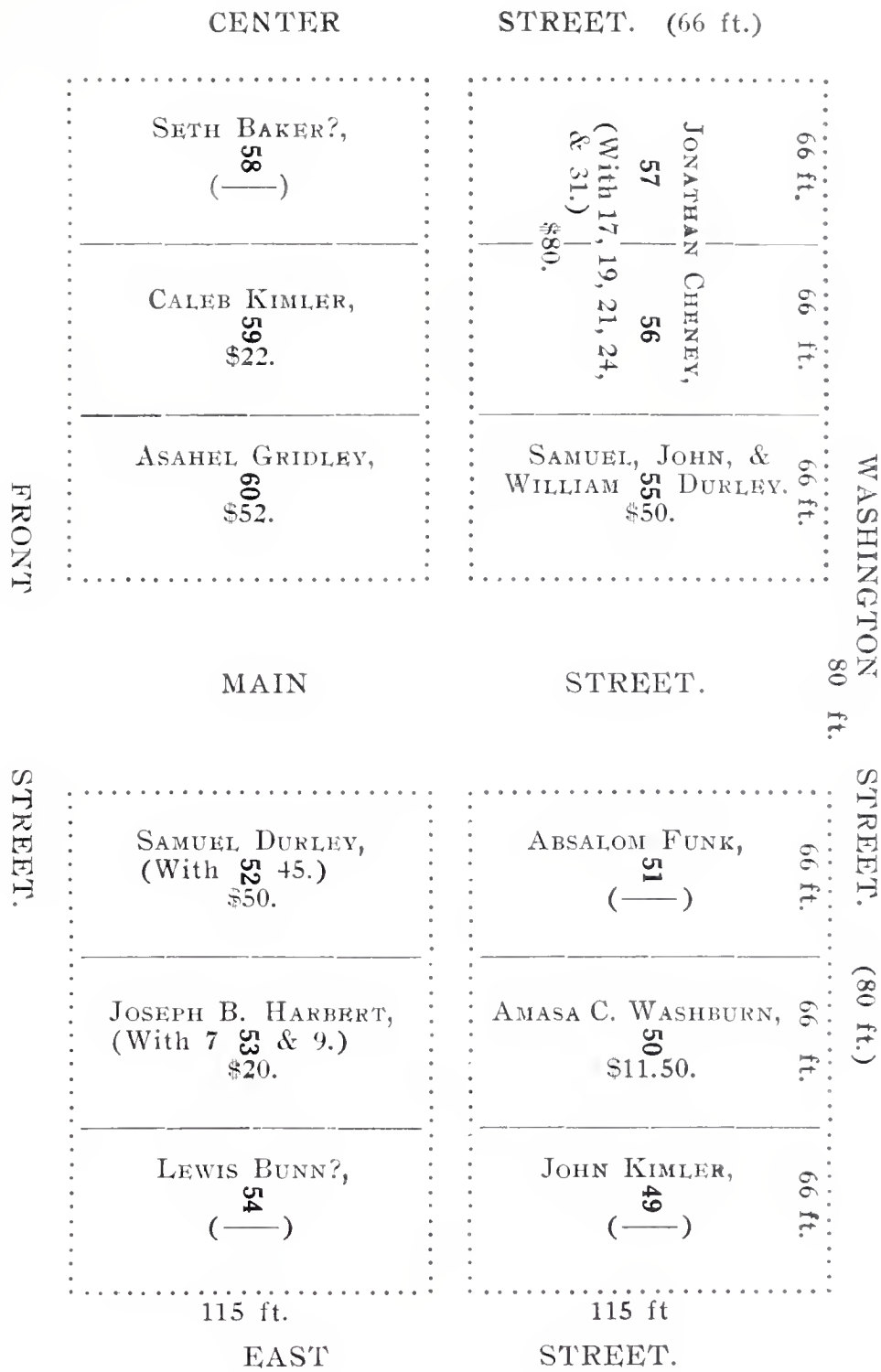
Several of these men were closely related to each other. Dr. Isaac Baker and Seth Baker (2), were father and son, respectively, Bailey H. Coffey was a relative of the Harberts, Solomon Dodge was a brother-inlaw of Dr. Isaac Baker, the three Durleys were brothers, the two Frankebergers were brothers, Richard Gross was a son-in-law of Joseph B. Harbert, Jesse Havens was the father-in-law of David Trimmer, the Harberts were all related to each other, the three Kimlers were brothers, John Maxwell, Jr. was doubly a brother-in-law of Martin Scott, the two Robertsons were brothers, and the two Trimmers were brothers.

LOCAL POPULATION IN 1831.

A small settlement consisting of the homes of James Allin, Dr. Isaac Baker, Timothy M. Gates, William Evans, (1775-1868.) and possibly one or two others, existed for a few months prior to 1831, located south and southeast and near to the original town site. According to Asahel Gridley, the population of Bloomington, Ill. when he first came here in October, 1831, consisted of the following persons, viz. James Allin and family, Robert Guthrie and family, John Kimler and wife, Rev. James Latta and wife, David Trimmer and wife, Dr. Isaac Baker and family, Dr. David Wheeler and daughters, William Evans [the above named.] and family, William Dimmitt, Samuel Durley, William Durley, Capt. Merritt L. Covell, and Amasa C. Washburn. Mr. Gridley seems to have overlooked the family of Timothy M. Gates, known to have been here at that time, and he commits a slight error in regard to the family of Robert Guthrie, who lived at Major's Grove, about a mile northwest of the original town site, and did not move into the town until the following year, 1832. The families of John Maxwell, Sr. James Toliver, and John Cannady, also lived within the present city limits in 1831. John Greenman and family moved away, either in the spring or summer of that year, and the other William Evans (1805-1856.) and his family had also moved away about two years previously.

Taking Gridley's list as a foundation, together with data derived from other sources, the following improvised census may be constructed of the population of Bloomington, Ill. in 1831.

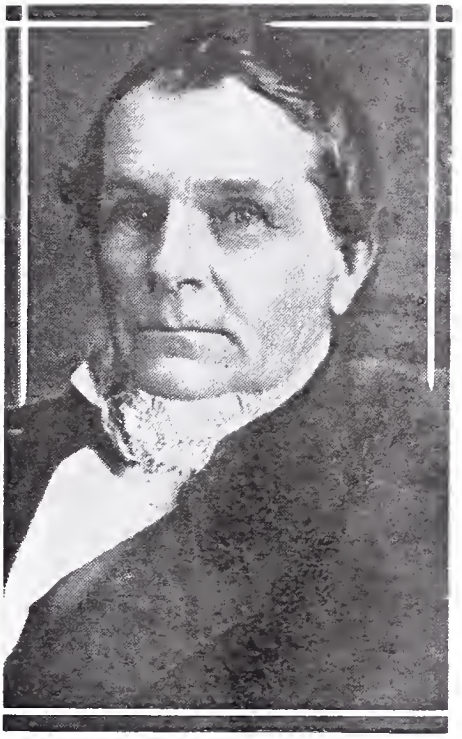
(1) Hon. James Allin, b. 1788.
(2) Catharine (Livingston) Allin, his wife, b. 1801.
(3) William H. Allin, b. 1818.
(4) James Allin, Jr. b. 1825.
(5) John W. Allin, b. 1826.
(6) Lee Allin, b. 1828.
(7) Dr. Isaac Baker, b. 1783.
(8) Susannah M. (Dodge) Baker, his first wife, b. 1788.
(9) Elliott H. Baker, b. 1808.
(10) William M. Baker, b. 1811.
(11) John D. Baker, b. 1813.
(12) Charles Baker, b. 1817.
(13) Sidney D. Baker, b. 1820.
(14) Mary Ann Baker, (Mrs. Martin B. Rowan.) b. 1823.
(15) Solomon D. Baker, b. 1825.
(16) Hiram Baker, (2) b. 1826.
(17) Albert W. Baker, b. 1829. (d. abt. 1833.)
(18) Seth Baker, (2) b. 1805.
(19) Mary M. (Gates) Baker, his first wife, b. 1805.
(20) Margaret Baker, (Mrs Frank Packard.) b. 1830.
(21) Capt. Merritt L. Covell, b. abt. 1800.
(22) William Dimmitt, b. 1797.
(23) Hon. Samuel Durley, b. 1805.
(24) William Durley, b. 1802.
(25) Mildred M. Durley, (Mrs. George R. Laughton.) b. 1828.



Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,

(Lots 49 to 60, Inclusive.)

Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.



AMASA C. WASHBURN.

Who Attended The First Lot Sale In Bloomington, Illinois, July 4, 1831, And Wrote An Account Of The Event Fifty Years Later.

(26) William Evans, Sr. b. 1775.
(27) Effy (Winebriner) Evans, his first wife, b. 1784.
(28) Francis M. Evans, b. 1812.
(29) William Evans, Jr. b. 1815.
(30) Samuel Evans, b. abt. 1820.
(31) Oliver P. Evans, b. 1823. (D. 1835.)
(32) Timothy M. Gates, b. 1777.
(33) Margaret (Hughs) Gates, his wife, b. 1782.
(34) Stephen F. Gates, b. 1803.
(35) Emily G. Gates, (Mrs. William McKisson.) b. 1810.
(36) Charles C. Gates, b. 1812.
(37) Horatio Gates, b. 1814.
(38) Hannah Gates, (Mrs. Eli N. Powell.) b. 1816.
(39) James M. Gates, b. 1817.
(40) Asahel Gridley, b. 1810.
(41) John Kimler, Jr. b. abt. 1790.
(42) Mary (Cox) Kimler, his wife, b. 1806.
(43) Hannah Kimler, (Mrs. Joseph Ramsey.) b. 1829.
(44) Rev. James Latta, b. abt 1800.
(45) Elizabeth (.....) Latta, his wife, b. abt. 1800?
(46) Henry Miller, b. 1805?
(47) Temperance (Evans) Miller, his wife, b. abt. 1810.
(48) Francis Miller, b. abt. 1830?
(49) David Trimmer, b. 1811.
(50) Margaret (Havens) Trimmer, his wife, b. 1812.
(51) Dr. David Wheeler, b. 1774.
(52) Matilda Wheeler, (Mrs. George W. Vaughan)? b. 1810?
(53) Martha Wheeler, (Mrs. Jesse C. Blankenship.) b. 1812.
(54) Charlotte Wheeler, (Mrs. Russell Post.) ? b. abt. 1814?
(55) Rebecca Wheeler, (Mrs. Jonathan Wright.)? b. abt. 1815?

Also the following, living in this immediate vicinity, 1831;
[1] John Cannaday, b. 1782. (D. Leroy, Ill. 1835.)
[2] Grace (.....) Cannaday, his wife, b. 1787.
[3] Robert Guthrie, b. 1795.
[4] Catharine (Spawr) Guthrie, his wife, b. 1796.
[5] John Guthrie, b. 1815.
[6] Margaret Guthrie, (Mrs. David Bay.) b. 1817.
[7] Robert E. Guthrie, b. 1819.
[8] Jacob Guthrie, b. 1821.
[9] Rebecca Guthrie, b. 1823.
[10] Adam Guthrie, b. 1825.
[11] Thomas H. Guthrie, b. 1827.
[12] Lee Guthrie, b. 1829.
[13] Mary Guthrie, (Mrs. ..... Holmes.) b. abt. 1830.
[14] John Maxwell, Sr. b. 1765.
[15] Jane (Brazelton) Maxwell, his wife, b. 1774.
[16] Mahala Maxwell, (Mrs. William Lane.) b. abt. 1815?
[17] Phebe Maxwell, (Mrs. Jeremiah Payne.) b. 1816.
[18] Polly Maxwell, (Mrs. Martin Scott, No. 2.) b. abt. 1818?
[19] Nancy Maxwell, (Mrs. John Chatham.) b. abt. 1820?
[20] Delitha Maxwell, (Mrs. Chester Jolly.) b. abt. 1822?
[21] Jane Maxwell, b. abt. 1822?
[22] Olitha Maxwell, b. abt. 1825?

[23] James Toliver, b. 1798.
[24] Elizabeth (Maxwell) Toliver, his wife, b. 1800.
[25] Phebe Toliver, (Mrs. John A. Payne.) b. 1822.
[26] Susannah Toliver, (Mrs. John S. W. Johnson.) b. 1823.
[27] Jane Toliver, (Mrs. Francis Johnson.) b. 1825.
[28] William Toliver, b. 1827.
[29] Polly M. Toliver,, (Mrs. George Hinshaw, Jr.) b. 1829.
[30] Lucinda Toliver, (Mrs. David H. Covey.) b. abt. 1831.

In addition to the foregoing, the following were in Bloomington in December, 1831, if not earlier, viz.;

[56] John Durley, b. abt. 1808.
[57] Benjamin Hains, b. 1777.
[58] Rebecca (Haman) Hains, his wife, b. 1782.
[59] Thomas H. Hains, b. abt. 1820?
[60] Benjamin C. Hains, b. 1824.

Nancy (.....) Durley, mother of the Durley brothers, may also have lived here in 1831.

McLEAN COUNTY'S TITLE TO THE PUBLIC SQUARE;

The following abstract will serve to show how McLean County re-acquired title to the northeast and northwest corner lots now forming a part of the court house block in Bloomington, Ill.

James Latta and wife, Elizabeth, to James Mason, Warranty Deed, Dec. 10, 1832. Conveys Lot 39, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. Consideration, $50. (A, 130.)

Sarah Mason, "widow of the late James Mason" of Jersey County, Ill. to William H. Allen, also of Jersey County, Ill. Warranty Deed, July 1, 1842. Includes Lot 39, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. (I, 388.)

William H. Allen and wife, Martha Maria, [Daughter of James Mason.] to Jesse Funk, William Bishop, and Henry Van Sickle, County Commissioners of McLean County, Ill. and their successors in office as such, Warranty Deed, May 3, 1847. Conveys Lot 39, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. "the same being in the public square of said town, and to be forever hereafter used as a Public square and no other purpose." Consideration, $100. (L, 502.)

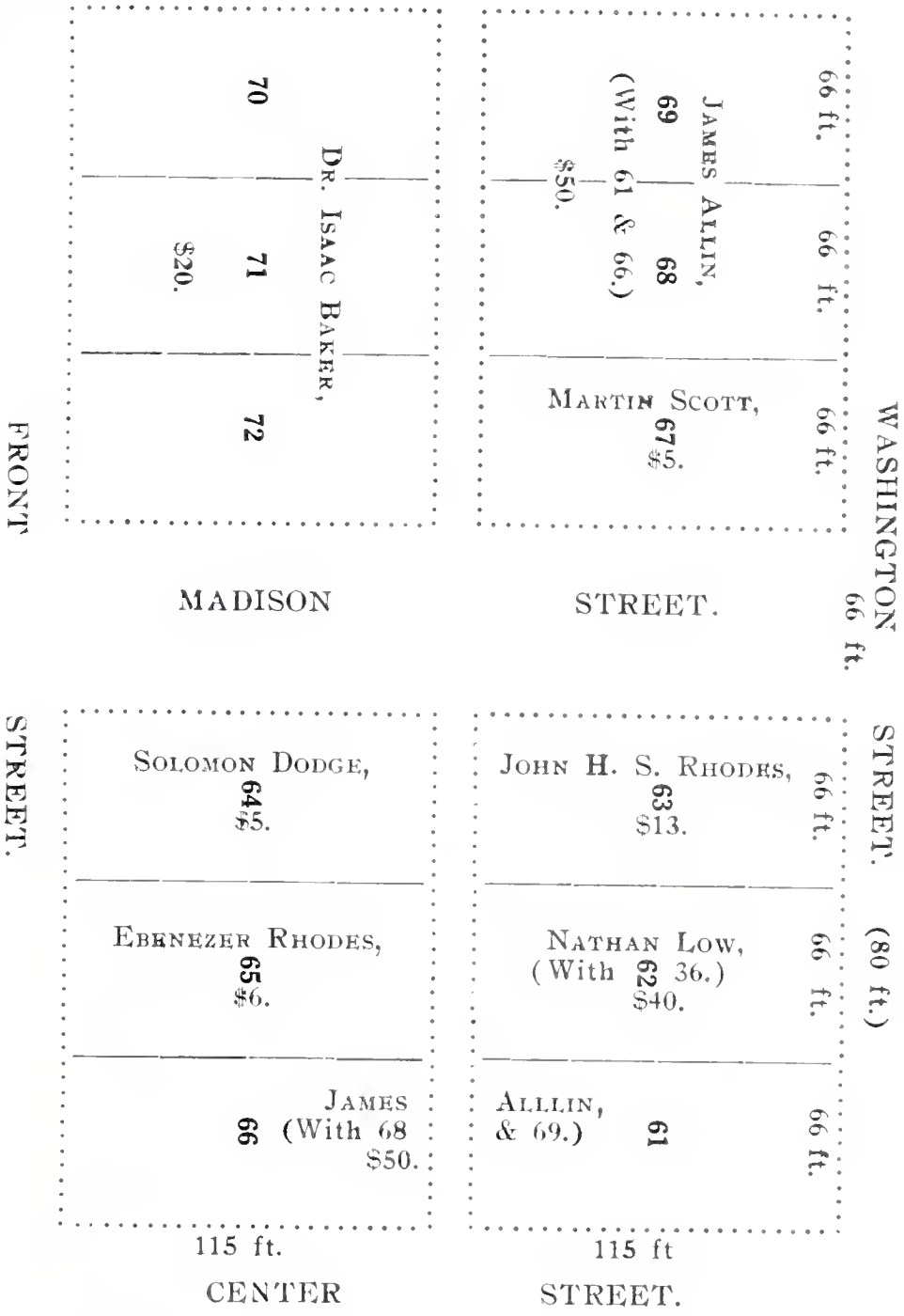
Merritt L. Covell and wife, Catharine, to Peter Withers, Warranty Deed, Oct. 12, 1837. Includes Lot 37, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. (E, 282.)

Peter Withers to Allen Withers, Warranty Deed, Oct. 23, 1847. Includes Lot 37, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. (M, 154.)

Allen Withers and wife, Sarah B., to Jesse Funk, Ezekiel Arrowsmith, and James Van Dolah, County Commisioners of McLean County, and their successors in office as such, Warranty Deed, April 17, 1849. Conveys Lot 37, Original Town of Bloomington, Ill. "in the North East corner of the Public Square." Consideration, $210. (N, 298.)

FINIS.

"WEST" STREET. (NOW ROOSEVELT.) (66 ft.)



Part of the Original Town of Bloomington, Illinois,
(Lots 61 to 72, Inclusive.)
Showing Names of First Purchasers and Prices Paid.